

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
/066 W

-----042130Z 027961 /70

R 042104Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0312
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0379
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06572

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK, FR, US
SUBJ: FONSEC OWEN'S PARIS VISIT: QUAI IMPRESSIONS

REFS: A. PARIS 5862. B. PARIS 6398.

1. QUAI'S NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS, ALFRED SIEFER-GAILLARDIN HAS NOW FILLED IN
ATMOSPHERIC DIMENSION AND FURTHER DETAILS FONSEC
OWEN'S FIRST VISIT HERE.

2. FRENCH, S-G SAID, WERE GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT
OWEN HAD NOT POSTPONED HIS PARIS VISIT FOLLOWING HIS
SUDDEN PROMOTION, SINCE DE GUIRINGAUD WAS ALREADY
SCHEDULED TO GO TO LONDON MARCH 16 UNDER SEMI-ANNUAL
CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENT WORKED OUT BY GISCARD AND
CALLAGHAN AT RAMBOUILLET LAST FALL. OWEN'S DECISION TO
COME ANYWAY WAS WELCOMED IN PARIS AS POSITIVE, ENERGETIC
GESTURE. HOWEVER, BY RAISING VISIT TO DE GUIRINGAUD
LEVEL, IT DID PRODUCE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. DISCUSSIONS
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WERE THEREFORE BRIEFER THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN
THE CASE. AND DE GUIRINGAUD NOW HAS HAD TO PUT OFF
HIS OWN LONDON VISIT TO AN AS YET UNDETERMINED TIME
LATER THIS SEMESTER.

3. OWEN STRUCK QUAI AS MOST ATTRACTIVE, POSITIVE
SPIRIT; PARTLY BECAUSE YOUTH AND ENTHUSIASM ARE CON-

TAGIOUS; PARTLY BECAUSE HE APPARENTLY SAID SOME OF THE RIGHT THINGS ON EUROPEAN ISSUES. WHILE THE BREVITY OF THIS FIRST MEETING DID NOT PERMIT MUCH BEYOND EXCHANGES OF GENERALITIES, FRENCH WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY OWEN'S:

--APPARENTLY PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE.

--THE CONSTRUCTIVE TONE HE ADOPTED ON BILATERALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES, INCLUDING ENERGY, RESEARCH, AND REGIONAL POLICY.

--HIS APPARENT ACCEPTANCE OF "FRENCH IDEA" THAT SUBSTANTIALLY MORE CONSCIOUS EFFORT IS NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE, PARTICULARLY IF NEW START IS TO BE MADE ON EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AS SUGGESTED BY GISCARD AT STRASBOURG AND DISCUSSED WITH SCHMIDT.

--IN SHORT, HIS DETERMINATION THAT OBSTACLES MUST BE OVERCOME TO RESTORE EUROPE'S INSTITUTIONAL MOMENTUM.

4. QUAI IS OF COURSE AWARE OF HMG'S EXTREMELY NARROW MARGINS FOR MANEUVER AND THEREFORE POINTS OUT THAT "ONE WILL HAVE TO SEE" WHAT OWEN CAN ACTUALLY DELIVER. SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH (AS REPORTED REFTEL A) HATCHET ALSO SEEMS BURIED ON TROJAN HORSE ISSUE, S-G HERE TOO, POINTEDLY ADDED THAT FRENCH WILL WATCH CAREFULLY, AND ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO HOW OWEN ACTUALLY HANDLES EC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 06572

PRESIDENCY ON WHOLE RANGE THESE ISSUES. EVEN SO, WE HAVE IMPRESSION OWEN'S FIRST, ALBEIT A SHADE BREATHLESS LANDING IN PARIS, WAS SUCCESS AND LEFT RELATIONS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN IF HE HAD NOT COME.

5. AMONG CONCRETE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED, QUAI ADDS EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT AND PARTICULARLY PORTUGAL TO LIST ALREADY NOTED REFTTEL A. QUAI SAYS THAT TWO MINISTERS DECIDED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY REACH FURTHER CONCLUSIONS REGARDING PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION WHILE SOARES' TRAVELS STILL IN PROGRESS; AND THAT PROCESS OF MOVING FROM PRESENT JOINT EC TALKING POINTS ABOUT PORTUGAL'S ADHESION TO MORE CONCRETE POSITIONS ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS POSED BY AN APPLICATION WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME. INDEED, EVEN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THIS PROBLEM WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TILL NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME. (COMMENT: IF ACCURATE, THIS WOULD GO SOME WAYS TO EXPLAIN FRENCH SATISFACTION WITH OWEN VISIT, CONFIDENTIAL

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SINCE QUAI HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY OBSESSED BY CONVICTION OF BRITISH FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND, OR AT LEAST TO TAKE SERIOUSLY, PROBLEMS PORTUGAL'S ADHESION COULD POSE FOR FRENCH ECONOMY.)

6. S-G ADDED THAT PORTUGUESE ADHESION WAS OF COURSE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH JENKINS DURING HIS MORE RECENT VISIT, WHO MADE RIGHT, CAUTIOUSLY BALANCED NOISES FOR THE PRESS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD ADD JENKINS VISIT WAS SOMEWHAT MARRED BY SHARP ATTACKS IN LE MONDE AND ELSEWHERE OVER COMMISSION HANDLING OF PRIVATE FRENCH EXPORT DEAL OF EC BUTTER TO THE SOVIET UNION--WHICH UK EMBASSY TELLS US MADE HIS DEBUT HERE SOMETHING LESS THAN A SUCCESS.
RUSH

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